

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 22 and 23 are currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-26 are pending.

Claims 1, 3-5, 9-11, 13, 14 and 17-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fey, et al (US 5,483,137) in view of Nishimoto (US 2002/0064995 A1). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

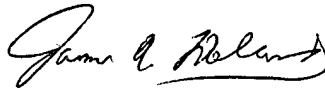
Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the electrical connecting cord communicates the first electrical signals from the first control unit to the second control unit through a plurality of communication paths as a self-contained unit, wherein the first connecting terminal is fastened to one of the communication paths at one of the first and second ends of the electrical connecting cord, and that the first connecting terminal is detachably connected to the second connecting terminal such that the first connecting terminal normally is attached to and detached from the second connecting terminal independently of other connecting terminals fastened to other ones of the plurality of communication paths at the one of the first and second ends of the electrical connecting cord.

Fey, et al disclose a signal transmitter (16) and a control unit (18) connected with each other via a signal line (22). Nishimoto, et al is used in the office action for its teachings of detachable connectors (14) and (15). However, such connectors are unitary structures that contain a plurality of conductors such that all of the conductors in a connector (14) must be attached to and detached from its corresponding connector (15) as a unit. Neither Fey, et al nor Nishimoto disclose or suggest an electrical connecting cord that communicates first electrical signals from a first control unit to a second control unit through a plurality of communication paths as a self-contained unit, wherein the first connecting terminal is detachably connected to a second connecting terminal such that the first connecting terminal normally is attached to and detached from the second connecting terminal independently of any other connecting terminals fastened to other ones of plurality of communication paths at the same end of the electrical connecting cord.

Claims 2, 6-8, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fey, et al in view of Nishimoto and Roberts (US 4,823,036). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above. Furthermore, Roberts is directed to the supply of power *per se* and neither discloses nor suggests the use of signals from the AC generator to provide further signals that correspond to bicycle speed as recited in the combination of claims 5 and 6, or that the signals are a combination of power and control signals as recited in claims 15 and 16.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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